

where flamingos had bred. They had seen eggshells and some dead chicks. This was an area on the edge of the Little Rann to the west of the flooded area of the Rann north of Pung Bet (Island). Approach to the area required a long circuit because the area was till recently an island which had been surrounded by water in this flooded part of the Little Rann. The water had recently receded, but the breeding of the birds in question must have taken place when the area was an island. We found a number of scraped shallow hollows in which fragments of spotted eggshells were lying. There was also one shrivelled up carcass of a chick, but it was beyond recognition. This was collected by the sanctuary staff. I collected the most complete remaining pieces of the eggshells. The nests were scattered about, some in clusters in

which nests were 1 to 4 m apart. As sunset was approaching and we were pressed for time I could not make a complete survey of the nesting site. It was, however, obvious that the eggs did not belong to flamingos. There were no earthen mounds in the vicinity.

I gave the eggshells to Taej Mundkur who, after comparing the shells with the specimens from other terns and gulls in the BNHS collection, came to the firm conclusion that these eggs were of the Caspian tern *Hydroprogne caspia*. This may be the first record of breeding of this species in India, though it has been known to breed in Pakistan.

August 4, 1989

M.K. RANJITSINH

9. OCCURRENCE OF THE EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPAEUS* LINN. IN KARERA BUSTARD SANCTUARY, MADHYA PRADESH

On 12 November 1985 when I was doing bird banding in Karera Bustard Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh, the trappers brought a nightjar along with some waterbirds caught during the previous night. The three outer primaries with white spot in the middle and white tipped outer two pairs of rectrices confirmed it as a European nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*. The measurements of the bird were as follows:

Wing 175 mm, Bill 19 mm from skull, 9 mm from feather, Tarsus 21 mm, Tail 111 mm, Weight 54 g, Sex male.

Moult: The wing was with suspended moult, having two outer primaries worn out considerably. But the rest were freshly formed. The tail had all freshly moulted feathers.

The European nightjar is a summer visitor and passage migrant to Pakistan, and is fairly common

and abundant as a transient on autumn passage (c. September) in southern Makran, Sind, and Kutch which lie on the easternmost fringe of the known migration route from Afghanistan, N.W. Pakistan etc., over Arabia to its winter quarters in Africa. The bird is rare in Sind in spring and apparently absent in Kutch. Stragglers have been recorded in Jodhpur (Rajasthan) and Bombay in October, and Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) in January (HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, Ali, S. and Ripley, S. D. 1983). There is no previous record of the European nightjar in Madhya Pradesh; this ringing record of this species confirms its occurrence in that state.

I am thankful to Eric D'Cunha for helping me in identifying the nightjar.

February 20, 1990

V. NATARAJAN

10. FOOD SELECTION BY SPANGLED DRONGO *DICRURUS HOTTENTOTTUS* (LINN.) AND CHOICE OF TREES FOR AFFORESTATION

The spangled drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* is a flower-nectar feeding bird. An exhaustive list of trees on which the bird feeds is not available. I have studied the food selection by the bird at Dehrā Dun

(30°19' N, 78°04' E) during July 1988 to August 1989 and the trees used for the purpose are listed in Table 1.

This information can be utilized in the choice of